

# Antiwar Group Snoops, Lurks at Laird's Home

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By Jim Mann

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Dressed in Sherlock

Holmes caps, trenchcoats and sunglasses, 11 members of SANE, an antiwar group, snooped, lurked, crept and tiptoed, yesterday outside the Bethesda home of Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird.

They carried tape recorders, cameras, toy telescopes and notebooks. They jotted down license plate numbers, hid behind newspapers and pumped neighbors for information.

"You don't know if they get any subversive literature, do you?" Sanford Gottlieb, executive director of

the Citizens Organization for a Sane World, asked bystanders.

It was all street theater to protest the surveillance of peace groups by Army intelligence.

Laird was at the Pentagon during the 40-minute performance, a Defense spokesman said. His dog, and several persons — apparently members of the family—were observed inside the house, a two-story grey-brick structure just south of River Road near the Kenwood Country Club.

No uniformed police appeared, and only two plainclothesmen were spotted standing watch outside.

For a while, it appeared that the protest would turn into a form of newsmen's solitaire. It was scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. and at least 15 forewarned reporters and photographers arrived on time. The demonstrators didn't, and the photographers began to photograph each other.

"They chicken out again!" asked 13-year-old Michael McCabe, standing two doors up the street with his dog. Michael and his friends had expected a protest at Laird's home last summer, but it never materialized. Finally, two cars full of protesters appeared, and the photographers applauded.

Eleven would-be sleuths popped out and placed the home under surveillance.

Two of them set up a "SANE spy scope" on a tripod across the street from Laird's home.

"See anything suspicious here?" asked Gottlieb, as the protesters deployed in the street. No one approached the Laird's front door.

Gottlieb claimed SANE recently discovered Army intelligence had been using a mail "cover" to put itself on the SANE mailing list.

The address was R. Allan Lee Associates, Box 922, Alexandria, Va. Its subscription had not been paid for

two years, according to SANE.

Gottlieb said that Ralph Stein, the former head of the "radical desk" in the Army's counterintelligence analysis branch, has admitted to SANE that he personally signed up as R. Allan Lee.

Stein could not be reached for confirmation yesterday, and the Pentagon said it could not obtain information to respond to the allegation until today. In December, Laird ordered a shake-up of military intelligence personnel after it was charged that they were spying on domestic peace groups and black militants.

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Members of SANE go through a cloak-and-dagger routine in front of Defense Secretary Melvin Laird's home in Bethesda.

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